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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/613,470	07/02/2003	Daniel Putterman	MEDB.P0009	4941

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EXAMINER

ZHAO, DAQUAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2621

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/613,470	Applicant(s) PUTTERMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner Daquan Zhao	Art Unit 2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/20/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi (US 6,089,321 B2).

Regarding claim 1, Hayashi teach a method for networking a plurality of television devices, said method comprising the steps of:

- receiving a plurality of television signals (e.g. column 6, line 48+, numerous broadcast programs multiplexed in the digital satellite broadcast signal);
- tuning each of said television signals in one of a plurality of tuners (e.g. column 8, lines 36-44);
- buffering said television signals on a storage medium in at least one PVR media server (e.g. column 8, lines 4-14, hard disk drive 150, and figure 2, Memory 12A and 12B);
- coupling a plurality of clients, over a network, to said PVR media server (e.g. figure 1, clients 2 and 3 are coupled to server 1);

- assigning at least two of said clients to one or more of said tuners(e.g. column 8, lines 36-55); and
- transferring, over said network, buffered television signals to said clients (e.g. column 7, lines 15-20).

Hayashi fails to specify the plurality of recording devices. It would have been obvious for one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used client device 2 and 3 as recording devices since Hayashi suggests video tape recorder in background of the invention (column 1, lines 37-45) in the home networking system to reduce the user's time of waiting for a broadcast program.

Claim 9 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed in claim 1 above.

Regarding claims 2, 3, 10 and 11, Hayashi teaches a single PVR media server comprising a plurality of tuners (e.g. figure 2, tuner 11A and 11B).

Regarding claims 4 and 12, Hayashi teaches buffering said television signals on a storage medium comprises the step of storing at least one television signal on a storage medium in at least one PVR media server for a client so as to record at least one television program for said client (e.g. column 11, lines 17-30).

2. Claims 6, 7, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi (US 7,089,321) as applied to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 and 12 above, and further in view of Green et al (US 2004/ 0,218,905 A1).

See the teaching of Hayashi above.

Regarding to claim 6, Hayashi fails to teach resolving any conflicts to assign an available tuner for television signal. Green et al teach resolving any conflicts to assign an available tuner for television signal (e.g. paragraph [0018]-[0019]). It would have been obvious for one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Green et al into the teaching of Hayashi to quickly determine and resolve a program recording conflict (Green et al, paragraph [0004]).

Claim 14 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed in claim 6 above.

Regarding claim 7, Green et al teach resolving any conflicts to assign an available tuner for said television program comprises the steps of: determining whether one of said tuners is available to receive said television signal; if so, assigning said tuner to receive said television signal; if not, determining which tuners are potentially available; querying clients assigned to said tuners potentially available to determine whether said clients desire to cancel recordation of said television program; and assigning a tuner potentially available to receive said television signal if no clients cancel recordation of said television program (e.g. paragraph [0018]-[0019]).

Claim 15 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed in claim 7 above.

3. Claims 5 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi (US 7,089,321 B2) as applied to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15 above, and further in view of Green et al (US 2004/0,218,905 A1).

See the teaching of Hayashi and Green et al above.

Regarding claim 5 and 13, Hayashi and Green et al fail to teach allocating space on storage medium to record television program. It is noted that allocating space on storage medium to record television program is well known in the art. The examiner takes official notice for that. It would have been obvious for one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to allocate space on the storage medium to record television program to reduce recording error.

4. Claims 8 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi (US 7,089,321 B2) as applied to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15 above, and further in view of Srikantan et al (US 6,857,130 B2)

See the teaching of Hayashi above.

Regarding claims 8 and 16, Hayashi fails to teach generating a first position to identify a location within a selected one of said buffered television signals for a first client, and for generating a second position to identify a location within said selected buffered television signal for a second client, said second position being independent from said first position. Srikantan et al teach generating a first position to identify a location within a selected one of said buffered television signals for a first client, and for generating a second position to identify a location within said selected buffered television signal for a second client, said second position being independent from said first position (e.g. column 8, lines 10-19). It would have been obvious for one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Srikantan et al into the teaching of Hayashi to fast reading from the storage medium.

Art Unit: 2621

Conclusion


5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ellis et al (US 2005/0028208 A1); Williams, Jr (US 6,195,797 B1).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daquan Zhao whose telephone number is (571) 270-1119. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Fri. 7:30 -5, alt Fri. off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tran Thai Q, can be reached on (571)272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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